

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 10, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Commercial Select Area Commercial Shad Recreational Steelhead
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STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Preseason forecasts were for 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock spring Chinook.
- The Bonneville Dam count through May 9th totals 52,115 adult fish and 790 jacks.
- Based on the recent 10-year average, 71% of the run has passed by May 9th. Since 1970, the latest timed run occurred in 1996. Passage for the 1996 run was 64% complete by May 9th.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 9th to examine the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC reduced the run to 78,800 fish; with a range between 73,800 and 88,800 upriver spring Chinook returning to the river mouth. TAC will meet again Friday morning May 13th.
- The Willamette Falls spring Chinook count through May 5th totals 16,619 adult fish. Based on the recent 5-year average, 38% of the run has passed by this date. Willamette spring Chinook run-sizes are updated in late May.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Average flows for April 2005 were 64% of the April 10-year average of 231 kcfs (range 188-277 kcfs). Flows during May have increased daily, with a range of 168 to 220 kcfs, which is less than the 10-year average range of 272-278 kcfs for early May.
- April 2005 temperatures were a little cooler than average through most of the month but did catch up to the 10-year average temperature of 52 °F by the end of the month. The Columbia River temperature is currently about 55 °F, which is slightly above the 10-year average of 54 °F.

SPRING CHINOOK FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Combined landings for both the winter commercial sturgeon and salmon seasons include 5,364 Chinook and 543 white sturgeon. Impacts are estimated at 0.900% of the 78,800 reduced run size.

Select Area Commercial Fishery

- Landings for the winter Select Area commercial season included 190 spring Chinook and 9 white sturgeon.

- The spring Select Area commercial season was scheduled to open on April 21st but was delayed due to the uncertainty regarding the upriver Chinook run size and the possibility of accruing additional upriver impacts.
- Modified (reduced time and area) fishing periods occurred the evening of May 5th in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough, and Deep River as adopted at the May 3rd Compact.
- Landings from the spring opener total 362 Chinook (199 Blind Slough, 149 Youngs Bay, 14 Deep River) and 4 sturgeon. No upriver Chinook were taken based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). The majority (85%) of the catch was sampled. Upriver spring chinook impacts remain at 0.013% of the 78,800 reduced run size.

Non-Indian Recreational Fisheries

Columbia River

- The mainstem Columbia River closed to salmon, steelhead and shad angling effective April 21st from Buoy 10 to McNary dam, including concurrent waters of Select Areas.
- The Select Areas re-opened for recreational fishing effective May 5th, 2005.
- Mainstem Columbia River recreational fisheries resulted in an estimated 108,000 angler trips with approximately 10,200 kept and 2,900 released spring chinook. Of the Chinook handled, 65% were of upriver origin. Impacts to upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 1.076% of the 78,800 reduced run size.
- Sport anglers between Bonneville and McNary Dams have completed 162 angler trips through April 17th resulting in 35 kept and 41 released spring chinook. Impacts are estimated to be 0.01% of the 78,800 reduced run size.

Lower Willamette River

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Catch rates during May 2nd through May 8th were one kept Chinook for every 8 boats compared to one kept Chinook for every 4-5 boats during the previous three weeks.

Other Columbia River Tributaries

- Catch rates on Washington tributaries below Bonneville Dam remain good.
- Returns to the Cowlitz Hatchery continue to be strong, with over 1,800 spring Chinook returning to the hatchery since May 4th. Other Washington hatcheries are also on track.
- Catch rates on Washington tributaries above Bonneville Dam also remain good.

2005 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently closed to steelhead angling below I-5 Bridge during April 1-May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1-June 15 under permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

Combined Fishery Impacts

- Based on the 78,800 reduced run size, impacts include 0.913% for the commercial fisheries (mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas) and 1.086% for the recreational fisheries for a total of 1.99%, or 133% of the 1.5% limit.
- A summary of cumulative non-Indian fishery impacts at various run sizes are provided in the following table:

Summary of Non-Indian Impacts by Run Size							
ESA Impact Limit -2.00% for runs 82,000 or greater, 1.5% for runs less than 82,000							
	ESA						
Allocation of Impacts Taken	Guideline	100,000	90,000	88,800	85,000	82,000	78,800
Mainstem commercial	<i>0.60</i>	0.711	0.789	0.800	0.835	0.866	0.900
Select Area commercial	<i>0.10</i>	0.010	0.011	0.011	0.012	0.012	0.013
Commercial shad/buffer	<i>0.10</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--
Below BON sport	<i>0.79</i>	0.849	0.942	0.955	0.997	1.035	1.076
LCR STHD (May 15-Jun 15)	<i>0.01</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--
BON to McNary Dam sport	<i>0.10</i>	0.008	0.008	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.010
SR sport/Wanapum Tribal	<i>0.20</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sport /Buffer	<i>0.10</i>	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total non-Indian Impacts	2.00	1.58	1.75	1.78	1.85	1.92	2.00
% Of ESA Limit Taken		79%	88%	89%	93%	96%	133%

FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Select Area Commercial Fishery Recommendation	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to scheduled fisheries in Deep River and Blind/Knapapa Slough Select Areas. The state of Oregon is recommending the following fishery modifications for the Youngs Bay Select Area and the portion of Blind Slough upstream of the Railroad Bridge.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescind the fishing periods for May 16-20 in Youngs Bay. • Adopt additional fisheries in Blind/Knapapa Slough and Deep River and modify Youngs Bay fishing periods as follows: 	
Fishing Periods	
Blind/Knapapa Slough	7 PM Tuesday May 10 th to 7AM Wednesday May 11 th 2005 (12 hours) and 7 PM-7 AM Monday and Thursday nights during May 12 th through June 17 th , 2005.
Deep River:	7 PM Tuesday May 10 th to 7 AM Wednesday May 11 th , 2005 (12 hours) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights May 12 th through June 17 th , 2005.
Youngs Bay:	8 PM-Midnight Tuesday May 10 th (4 hours) 8 PM Thursday May 12 th to 2 AM Friday May 13 th (6 hours) 6 PM Monday May 16 to 6 AM Tuesday May 17 th (12 hours)
Areas:	
Blind/Knapapa Slough:	Entire Blind Slough and Knapapa Slough area. Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knapapa Slough and require Compact action.
Deep River	Area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
Youngs Bay:	Entire Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in all areas.
	Blind/Knapapa Slough: Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.
	Deep River: Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
	Blind Slough, Knapapa Slough, and Deep River: Attachment of additional weights and anchors directly to the leadline is allowed.
	Youngs Bay: Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.
	Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knapapa Slough: Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.
	Deep River: Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock

- ✓ These proposed fishing periods should result in ≤ 1 , and likely zero (0), upriver spring chinook mortalities.
- ✓ Adoption of these fishing periods will provide access to spring Chinook returning to Select Area fishing sites while minimizing risk to non-local stocks. Further delays will reduce the

economic benefit of Select Area spring fisheries due to increased escapement and straying, and decreasing fish quality.

Additional fishery recommendations

<i>2005 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delay Mainstem steelhead sport until further notice.• Open Shad sport fishery as planned.

- ✓ Incidental mortalities on upriver Chinook are expected to total 32 fish during the May 16-June 15th steelhead fishery, based on the 78,800 reduced upriver Chinook run size

<i>2005 Commercial Shad Fishery Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delay 2-S fishery until May 23rd (rescind scheduled fisheries of May 16th -20th)• Open Washougal Reef fishery as planned on May 15th at 8:00 PM

- ✓ Incidental mortalities on upriver Chinook are expected to total 5 fish during the entire 2S fishery based on an expected harvest of 45,000 shad.
- ✓ No impacts are expected for the Washougal Reef fishery.

<i>Alternative Fishery Option</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delay decision for closures/modification until after TAC meets on Friday May 13th.• Put fisheries at risk on point today for possible immediate closure effective May 16th.• Hold a Compact at 11:30 Friday May 13th if run-size update does not exceed 82,000.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Tuesday May 17th, 2005 at 10 AM by telephone.
- Schedule a Compact hearing to set summer Chinook commercial fishing periods (commercial fishery expected to start week of June 20th).